(c) whether Government appointed a consultant to study the disinvestment process of these central power sector undertakings;

(d) if so, the details of the report of the consultant; and

(e) the steps proposed by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) In order to enable the Government to implement an Accelerated Power Development Programme, the Government is considering various options for mobilizing resources to supplement the funds likely to be provided in the plan and to leverage the strengths of different Central Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Power. A final decision on the modality of leveraging the financial strength of different CPSUs covering various aspects like disinvestment, privatization etc. will be taken in consultation with Planning Commission and concerned Ministries.

(c) M/s ICICI and M/s State Bank of India (SBI) Capital Markets were appointed as Consultants to suggest various options of raising resources for the Central PSUs and to invest in accelerated power development programme.

(d) and (e) ICICI and SBI Capital Markets have suggested several options for financial engineering/restructuring of power sector CPSUs generating additional resources. These options include:

(i) Disinvestment of GOI stake in CPSUs

(ii) Sale of assets of CPSUs.

(iii) Cross holding in power sector CPSUs.

(iv) Consolidation of fragmented composites.

These suggestions of consultants are being examined by the Government.

Power Sector Reforms in AP

5600. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested for assistance towards implementation of Power sector reforms in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh in his

letter addressed to Finance Minister has requested for a Special Assistance of Rs. 1000 crores for meeting the State Government's commitment to power sector reform.

Based on the decision taken in the NDC Sub-Committee meeting chaired by Union Finance Minister on 20.3.1999, an Official Committee was set up with Secretary, Planning Commission as its Chairman to monitor and review the fiscal reform programs of the States. Thirteen States including Government of Andhra Pradesh approached the Government of India with their fiscal reform programs and signed agreement for formulation and implementation of a credible and monitorable programme to achieve fiscal stability. The States which signed the MOU on fiscal reforms were given assistance in the form of extended ways and means advance and Additional Market Borrowing. Government of Andhra Pradesh was provided Rs. 500 crores as Additional Market Borrowings and Rs. 200 crores was released as Extended Ways and Means Advance during the year 1999-2000 as medium term assistance linked to their fiscal reform programme.

Clearance of private sector power projects in AP

5601. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether two private sector power projects proposed to be set up in Andhra Pradesh at Rangareddy and Nalgonda Districts are pending clearance from the centre; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed for early clearance to solve the acute shortage of power problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No proposal for establishment of power projects by private sector in these districts is pending for accord of Techno- Economic Clearance (TEC) by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

(b) Does not arise.

Clearance of Cogentrix Power Project

5602. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cogentrix power project in Karnataka has since been given final clearance;